California State University Stanislaus
Department of Computer Science
Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Xuejun Liang
My Office: DBH 282
Office Hours: TuTh 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. & W 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
ZOOM Meeting ID: 4438930033, Phone: (209) 667-3169, Email: xliang@csustan.edu

Class Information:

Classroom: DBH 104 / Online
Class Days & Times: Tu 3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Class Website: https://www.cs.csustan.edu/~xliang/Courses3/CS4960-25F
Class Canvas: Use your class Canvas account to submit assignments
Class Modality: Hybrid Online - Synchronous. In-person class meetings will be on campus at the room, day, and time listed. Online class meetings will be at the day and time listed. Students must be available at the class times listed in the Class Schedule and must attend in person on days indicated as such by the instructor. Students do not have the option to choose in-person or virtual, nor opt for asynchronous participation.

Catalog Description:

CS4960: Seminar in Computer Science (1 unit). Pre-requisites: Senior standing and consent of instructor and either passage of (strongly recommended) CS 4100, or co-enrollment in CS 4100. Presentation and discussion of selected topics in computer science from current literature.

Textbook:

None

Course Objectives

- To explore aspects of computer science beyond what you have encountered in your previous course work,
- To benefit from similar research done by your fellow students, and
- To present an important body of work in both written and oral form.

Course Requirements

- Accept a presentation date assigned by the instructor at the beginning of the semester.
- Choose a computer science topic to research and present to an audience. The audience will include, but not be limited to, the other members of the class.
    1. The topic **must** have significant scholarly, as opposed to merely technological, content.
    2. The research **must** draw on multiple sources and embody concepts that may be expected to endure beyond any particular current technology.
- Select a preliminary research topic and submit it to the instructor in Canvas. The topic should be specific in a field related to computer science. It needs to be involved in a college level of theoretical and/or technical discussion.
- Submit the topic proposal to the instructor in Canvas. The proposal **must** specify multiple reliable sources (at least two) from which you intend to draw. Include full citations in bibliographic form: for details about the required form for citations see **"Your List of References"** and **"When You Make Direct Use of a Source"** below. Your proposal **must** also describe the nature of the scholarly content you will include in your presentation.

- To pass the course, you **must** turn in a satisfactory proposal. You **must** get the instructor's formal approval of the proposal by working out an agreement with the instructor. Your presentation **must** correspond to the agreed-upon proposal.
- Create a balanced and unbiased written report on your topic. Base it on a variety of solid sources, including the ones you listed in your approved proposal. Synthesize and summarize the knowledge you gained from the research. Infuse the exposition of the report with freshness and originality. The report **must** tell what you learned about the subject matter - what you think, feel, and wonder about it. What interesting questions did your research answer? What interesting questions remain unanswered?
- Turn in your written report and your presentation slides one week in advance of your presentation date in Canvas. All students should review the presentation slides before the talk. Reports **must** use a font of size 12 and have 5 to 6 pages with single space. Your report **must** include a reference page citing your sources, at least two of which must be books or peer-reviewed journal articles. More information on proper citation of sources.
- On your assigned date deliver a 20-25-minute oral presentation of the content of your written report. (Seminar presentations will be publicly announced and will be open to visitors who may wish to attend.)
- Attend all the presentations of the other members of the class and react to them by asking questions and by writing a short critique which will be collected and given to the presenter.

Grading

Assuming you fulfill all the requirements listed above, I will base your grade on three components:

1. your grade on your written report,
2. your grade on your oral presentation, and
3. your participation grades.

Each of the components above will get equal weight.

I'll grade your paper and oral presentation based on the thoroughness and depth with which you address your topic as well as the clarity, accuracy, and style of your presentation. You'll get a grade between 0 and 100 for each.

You'll get one participation credit for each time you attend a presentation and turn in an acceptable critique sheet. I'll compute your number of satisfactory critiques as a percentage of the number of possible critiques, and this percentage will be your participation grade.

You will receive credit (a grade of "CR") for the course if

1. you receive a score of 60 or above in each of the three components, and
2. your average over the three components is 70% or above.

Otherwise, you will receive no credit ("NC").

(The above "Course Requirements" and "Grading" are borrowed liberally from Dr. John Sarraille's CS 4960 course description, with permission.)

Course Outline* (Major Topics and Weekly Schedule)

Date	Topic, Assignments, Events
WK01: 08/26	Introduction
WK02: 09/02	Topic Selection -- Preliminary topic (one paragraph) due on 09/08
WK03: 09/09	Proposal writing -- Topic proposal (one to three pages) due on 09/15
WK04: 09/16	Paper writing and presentation
WK05: 09/23	Individual Meetings

WK06: 09/30	Individual Meetings
WK07: 10/07	Individual Meetings
WK08: 10/14	Individual Meetings
WK09: 10/21	Individual Meetings
WK10: 10/28	Presentation Day 1
WK11: 11/04	Presentation Day 2
WK13: 11/18	Presentation Day 3
	Thanksgiving Break
WK14: 12/02	Presentation Day 4
WK15: 12/09	Presentation Day 5

*It is subject to change.

Academic Honesty

The work you do for this course will be your own, unless otherwise specified. You are not to submit other people's or AI generated work and represent it as your own. I consider academic honesty to be at the core of the University's activities in education and research. Academic honesty is always expected in this course.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities seeking academic accommodations must first register with the Disability Resource Services (DRS) program, located in MSR 210, ph. (209) 667-3159. Students are encouraged to talk with the instructor regarding their accommodation needs after registering with DRS.

Students Support Services

Services Director can be accessed via the link: Student Services | California State University Stanislaus (csustan.edu)